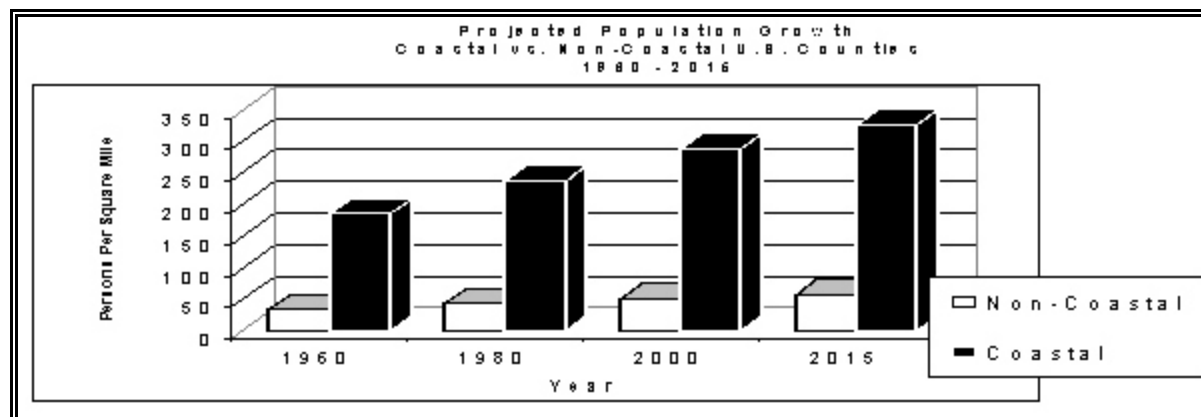


Coastal Program

2004 Program Overview

The President's Management Agenda calls for a government that is citizen-centered, results-oriented, promotes efficiency and innovation, remove barriers to change, and embraces citizens as full partners. This vision is presented in Secretary Norton's four C's - Cooperation, Consultation and Communication, all in the service of Conservation. Along our nation's coasts, the Service responds by working with citizens and communities to protect and restore important coastal habitats. In 2004, the Coastal program is included in the Secretary's Cooperative Conservation Initiative.



As Americans flock to the coasts to enjoy the environment and benefit from recreational and economic opportunities, the demand intensifies from communities and resource managers for programs to help integrate sound economic development and conservation of coastal resources. The Service, through the Coastal program, works in 16 high priority coastal areas to protect and restore habitat on public and private lands. The Coastal Barrier Resources Act Program (CBRA) takes a market based approach to conservation by withholding federal funds for development and disaster assistance in high-risk and biologically rich coastal habitats. Through the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (aka Coastal Grant Program), coastal states receive grants from the Sport Fish Restoration Fund to protect their coastal wetlands. Within the Resource Protection Strategic Goal, the Service and CBRA contribute to the DOI draft End Outcome Goals: Improve Health of Watersheds, Landscapes and Marine Resources.

Location of FWS Coastal Program Focus Areas

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| ■ Cook Inlet, AK | ■ Florida |
| ■ Puget Sound, WA | ■ South Carolina Coast |
| ■ Albemarle/ | ■ Delaware Bay |
| ■ Pamlico Sound, NC | ■ Southern New |
| ■ San Francisco Bay, CA | ■ England/NY Bight |
| ■ Chesapeake Bay | ■ Gulf of Maine |
| ■ San Diego Bay | ■ Texas Coast |
| ■ Florida Gulf Coast | ■ Pacific Islands |
| ■ Everglades/ South | ■ Great Lakes |

The Service works to improve the health of our watersheds, landscapes and marine resources by implementing the DOI draft Strategy of restoring and maintaining proper function to watersheds and landscapes by helping sustain biological communities. Work here is focused on the Intermediate outcomes of habitat protection and integrated management through voluntary stewardship partnerships. Progress is measured by tracking on-the-ground habitat restoration undertaken through voluntary stewardship partnerships. Since 1994, the Service and its partners have helped restore 113,000 acres of wetland and upland habitat and 900 miles of stream and riparian habitat. Using a collaborative approach, the Program has helped to protect over 1.1 million acres.

In FY 2004, the Service plans to restore 9,710 acres of wetlands; 1,548 acres of uplands; 151 miles of riparian corridor; remove 12 barriers to fish passage; and open over 200 miles to fish access. The Service plans to work with communities to help them permanently protect 12,990 acres of wetlands, 15,140 acres of upland, and 144 miles of riparian and stream habitat.

The Service, under the Coastal Barrier Resources Act, also advances the draft End Outcome Goal of watershed health through the Strategy of improving the information base, resource management and technical assistance. Using state-of-the-art geographic information systems and data management capabilities, the Service works with communities to identify, evaluate, and map important fish and wildlife habitat and provides technical assistance so that these lands can be protected or restored. This builds on the President's call for E-Governance, the CBRA program is creating digital maps of coastal areas that our local, state, and non-governmental partners can use to help target their conservation investments and bolster the Act's effectiveness. Beginning in FY 2003, the Coastal program will track the outcome of customer satisfaction with the scientific and technical assistance it provides by conducting client surveys so they can improve their services.

Working with partners since 1994, the Service has protected over 1.1 million acres of important coastal habitat through conservation easements. CBRA has saved the taxpayers over \$1 billion while encouraging the protection of 1.3 million acres of coastal habitat. The Service's customer service role in CBRA includes (1) maintaining the official coastal barrier maps; (2) making changes to certain map boundaries every 5 years to reflect erosion and accretion; (3) determining whether individual properties are affected by the law; (4) helping to ensure proposed federal spending is consistent with the Act; and (5) reviewing the Federal Emergency Management Agency's flood maps. Since 1990, the Coastal Grant Program has contributed to the protection and restoration of over 150,000 acres of coastal wetlands in 25 States by providing over \$120 million in grants.

In FY 2004, the Service will begin digitizing "otherwise protected areas" designated by the Coastal Barrier Improvement Act of 1990. In Florida and North Carolina, the Service will map 25 OPAs which comprises about 10% of the total, 6% of the total CBRA acreage (175,000) and 7% of the shoreline miles (180). Digital maps for 33% of all CBRA areas will be created. Additionally, as required by the Coastal Barrier Resources Reauthorization Act of 2000, the Service will submit a report to Congress outlining a full E-governance map modernization strategy for all affected coastal barriers.

2002 Program Performance Accomplishments

[New Strategic Plan Based Goals] Resource Protection/Improve Health of Watersheds, Landscapes, and Marine Resources	FY 2002 Planned	FY 2002 Actual	Change	Reason for Change
Acres of wetland habitat acres enhanced and/or restored	2,765	4,305	+1,540	More landowner interest in wetland restoration than upland restoration and riparian restoration this year.
Acres of upland habitat enhanced and/or restored	1,780	1,226	-554	
Miles of riparian and/or stream habitat enhanced and/or restored	135	87	-48	

Note: This table identifies the acres and miles of habitat "enhanced and/or restored" off Service lands by the Coastal Program. The Coastal Program conducts its activities "on" as well as "off" public lands. In FY04, the Program will be reporting its accomplishments "off" as well as "on" Service lands.

In FY 2002 the major accomplishments for the Service, CBRA and Coastal Grant Program included:

- Restoring or enhancing a total of 11,237 acres of wetlands. Coastal wetlands including salt marshes and estuaries are crucial “nurseries” for America’s important commercial and recreational marine fisheries. They also provide habitat for migratory birds and federally listed species.
- Restoring or enhancing 1,492 acres of coastal uplands. Uplands include habitats such as remnant coastal prairie, a rapidly declining habitat known to support a diverse array of biological resources. Upland restoration benefits declining populations of grassland migratory birds and maintains rare plant species.
- Restoring or enhancing 88 miles of riparian or stream habitat. Riparian corridor restoration improves flood control, increases habitat connectivity, provides quality habitat for songbirds and aquatic resources, and it also enhances our quality of life and provides recreational opportunities.
- The Service, working with others, protected 49,916 acres of wetland, 26,187 acres of upland, and 161 miles of riparian and stream habitat through conservation easements with private landowners.
- Created digital maps of coastal barriers in North Carolina, Louisiana, and part of Florida, including some of the largest expanses of coastal barrier habitat in the country. The Service digitized 63 areas comprising about 525,000 acres and 375 miles of shoreline. This represents 17 percent of the habitat designated by the Coastal Barrier Resources Act and its amendments.
- Provided technical assistance to help 15 States receive over \$15.7 million in Coastal Wetland Grants to protect and restore 17,000 acres of coastal wetlands.

2003 Performance Goal Estimates

Resource Protection/Improve Health of Watersheds, Landscapes, and Marine Resources)	FY 2002 Actual	FY 2003 Planned	Change
Acres of wetland habitat acres enhanced and/or restored	4,305	3,885	-420
Acres of upland habitat enhanced and/or restored	1,226	1,362	+136
Miles of riparian and/or stream habitat enhanced and/or restored	87	88	+1

FY 2003 President’s Budget:

Acres of wetland habitat acres enhanced and/or restored (4,228)

Acres of upland habitat enhanced and/or restored (500)

Miles of riparian and/or stream habitat enhanced and/or restored (246)

Note: This table identifies the acres and miles of habitat “enhanced and/or restored” off Service lands by the Coastal Program. The Coastal Program conducts its activities “on” as well as “off” public lands. In FY04, the Program will be reporting its accomplishments “off” as well as “on” Service lands.

The Service plans to restore a total of 3,885 acres of wetlands, 1,362 acres of uplands, and 88 miles of stream habitat - off Service lands. The Service will remove 12 barriers to fish passage and assist communities in their efforts to protect 12,755 acres of wetlands, 15,140 acres of upland, and 121 miles of stream and riparian habitat. The Service also plans to restore a total of 5,925 acres of wetlands, 216 acres of uplands, and 65 miles of stream habitat - on Service lands. The Service, CBRA and Coastal Grants Program will expand science by providing status and trends, mapping, and technical assistance to states, local governments and communities. Using a collaborative approach, the Program will restore damaged habitats, strengthen voluntary stewardship partnerships, protect pristine habitats from degradation, and expand access and understanding of the science of coastal habitats. Examples of planned accomplishments include:

Restoring Damaged Habitat

- Restoring and enhancing wetlands and uplands throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed using local “Bayscapes” partnerships that encourage environmentally sensitive land management practices. Projects for the Solomons Island area of southern Maryland will be completed, and new efforts initiated in the Nanticoke and Patuxent Rivers.
- Implementing the Waipa Community’s watershed restoration plan in Hawaii to remove alien riparian and coastal vegetation and replant native species grown in local greenhouses.
- Restoring riparian habitat for dwindling coaster brook trout in Lake Superior.

Voluntary Stewardship Partnerships

- Partnering with the Siuslaw National Forest and Oregon National Guard to restore snowy plover habitat at Tenmile Creek in Coos County, Oregon. This effort will also provide an opportunity for a Guard training exercise. Ultimately up to 270 acres will be restored.
- Assisting the Native Village of Ekluntna to assess to conditions of aquatic habitats for salmonids on their lands north of Anchorage, AK. The study will help direct watershed restoration efforts, including dam removal and recontouring or previously channelized streams.
- Strengthening public/private partnerships to restore one million acres of coastal and estuary habitat over the next decade via the Estuary Habitat Restoration Council.

Protecting Pristine Habitat

- Protecting shorebird nesting islands and Atlantic salmon habitat in the Gulf of Maine.
- Protecting bottomland hardwood forests in South Carolina, via ongoing partnerships established for the 5 coastal watershed focus areas (Winyah Bay, Santee River, CAWS Basin, ACE Basin, and South Lowcountry, SC).

Expanding Science

- Providing technical assistance in the form of stream assessments and restoration training as well as design and construction demonstrations for landowners and resource agencies throughout the Chesapeake Bay watershed.
- Conducting an analysis of Maui County near shore coral reefs and coastal habitats with the assistance NOAA, the State of Hawaii, and the Hawaii Heritage Program.
- Creating digital Coastal Barrier Resources Act maps for South Carolina, Delaware, Georgia, Maryland, Ohio, Wisconsin, Michigan, and part of Florida. In total, this includes 154 areas comprising almost 315,000 acres and 280 shoreline miles. Building on our work in FY 2002, by the end of FY 2003 we will have digitally mapped 217 areas encompassing 27 percent of the total CBRA acreage.

Providing the public with information about its activities is one way that we help promote partnerships. The website (<http://www.fws.gov/cep/coastweb.html>) contains information about Coastal Program, CBRA and the Coastal Grants Program activities, accomplishments and contacts.

Justification of Program Changes:

Subactivity		2004 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
Coastal Program	\$(000)	9,639	-85
	FTE	78	0

The FY 2004 Budget Request for the Coastal program is \$9,639,000, a net program decrease of \$85,000 from the 2003 President’s budget request level.

Travel Reduction (-\$11,000) - The request includes a \$11,000 reduction for travel expenses to be accomplished by curtailing unnecessary travel and relocation costs, as well as increased teleconferencing and use of central meeting locations.

The Service employs approximately 8,000 permanent full-time staff at approximately 700 field stations supported by seven regional offices and the Washington D.C. headquarters office. Many of the staff transfer from one field location to another or accept assignments at the Washington or regional offices to expand their professional experience or increase the level of responsibility in the organization. Service employees frequently travel to meetings such as professional association national, state or local chapter quarterly and annual meetings. The Service recognizes that there is significant benefit to be obtained by having employees work at different locations and at increasing levels of responsibility. The proposed decrease will not eliminate the opportunity for relocating, but will increase the time between moves.

Direct, mission related travel and travel associated with training will not be impacted by the proposed reduction. The Service will carefully evaluate policies and procedures related to attendance at meetings and conferences and will institute policies to limit redundancy in attendance.

IT Reduction (-\$74,000) - The Department is undertaking significant information technology reforms to improve the management of IT investments, to improve the security of systems and information, and to realize short and long-term efficiencies and savings. The Department is taking a corporate approach that will include consolidated purchases of hardware and software, and the review of select IT functions including centralized help desks, email support, web services, centralized network management, and coordination of training. The Service estimates a savings of \$6.6 million by participating in these Departmental efforts.

In addition, the Service will achieve an additional \$2 million in savings in other operational IT investments by centralizing management of geographic software, implementing desktop standards, consolidation of the Service messaging platform and other similar activities.

The Coastal program's share of this reduction of \$74,000 reflects the anticipated savings from these cost cutting measures and reforms.